GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:521
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report released recently by the "International Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change" in India;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) the manner in which it is different from the findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change; and

(e) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 521 BY SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI AND SHRI EKNATH M GAIKWAD REGARDING "INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE".

(a) to (d) Government is aware of a Report published by a London-based Coalition of 41 Non-governmental/ Civil Society organizations under the caption "Civil Society Report on Climate Change", containing results of some studies commissioned by the Coalition. The Report makes, inter-alia, an assessment of the likely climate change impacts on weather related events, health, agriculture and related sectors and also suggests adaptation measures. The Report concludes that adverse impacts of global warming on agriculture and commercial forestry production can be addressed through market forces. The Report also notes that mortality rates due to extreme weather events shall not increase and spread of vector borne diseases can be managed with increase of the collective adaptive capacity of the human society. While the Report acknowledges the phenomenon of global warming, it does not treat Climate Change as such a serious threat as is being projected.

This Report is an independent contribution of the 'Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change'. In formulating its policies and programmes, the Government, takes into account all relevant information available on the subject.

On the other hand, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report is based on assessment of scientific peer - reviewed literature published worldwide on three aspects of Climate Change: Physical Science basis; Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation; and Mitigation. The IPCC Report contains an assessment of observed changes in the climate as well as the future projections based on various developmental scenarios at global/ regional level.The IPCC Report has concluded that warming of climate system is unequivocal. The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC was adopted in 2007 by all Member-governments of IPCC, including India.

(e) India follows a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes which also mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Besides, India spends over 2 percent of the gross domestic product in development measures which, in addition, will help adaptation to climate variability and change.The PM Council on Climate Change was established in June, 2007 to address Climate Change related issues. The Council has decided that a National Document be prepared on measures to address Climate Change concerns.The Government has also set up an Expert Committee to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identify the measures that may be needed in future.